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08/811772

March 4, 1997

Transmitted herewith for filing is the patent application of

Inventor: Martha McKenzie

For: CLOTHING HANGER HOLDER

Enclosed are:

- ☒ Five sheets of drawing in Triplicate
- ☐ An assignment of the invention to \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ A certified copy of a \_\_\_\_\_ application.
- ☒ A power of attorney
- ☒ A verified statement to establish small entity status under 37 CFR 1.9 and 37 CFR 1.27.
- ☐

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| BASIC FEE   |           |           |
| TOTAL CLAIMS  | 14 -20=   | * 0       |
| INDEP CLAIMS  | 1 -3=     | * 0       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENTED |           |           |

SMALL ENTITY


| RATE   | FEE    |
|--------|--------|
|        | \$ 385 |
| x 11=  | \$     |
| x 40=  | \$     |
| x 130= | \$     |
| TOTAL  | \$ 385 |

OTHER THAN A SMALL ENTITY

| RATE    | FEE    |
|---------|--------|
|         | \$ 770 |
| x 22=   | \$     |
| x 80 =  | \$     |
| x 260 = | \$     |
| TOTAL   | \$     |

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- ☐ The issue fee set in 37 CFR 1.18 at or before mailing of the Notice of Allowance, pursuant to 37 CFR 1.311(b).
- ☒ Any filing fees under 37 CFR 1.16 for presentation of extra claims.

March 4, 1997  
Date

  
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## CLOTHING HANGER HOLDER

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

First and second rods extend from spaced points on an open frame. The rods support a plurality of hangers situated in parallel planes. When the frame is mounted on a wall such that the rods extend horizontally, the hangers are retained on the rods by upwardly bent end sections. A third rod may be provided to engage the hanger near the point where the hook is attached. In one preferred embodiment, the upwardly bent end sections of the first and second rods are connected by an arcuate section and the third rod is joined to the arcuate section. A cover enclosing the hangers is employed in another preferred embodiment.

MARTHA MCKENZIE

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# CLOTHING HANGER HOLDER

The present invention relates to a device for the storage of clothing hangers and more particularly to a clothing hanger holder adapted to be mounted on a wall or shelf and which includes retaining means to prevent accidental dislodgement of the hangers.

Clothing hangers made of wood, plastic, metal or combinations thereof are in common use in the home. Empty hangers must be stored for use when needed. The empty hangers can be hung on the closet bar, along with those which are in use. However, storage of empty hangers in this way takes up limited closet space.

In order not to occupy hanging space, empty hangers could be stacked on a shelf in the closet or on the closet floor. However, hangers kept in such a manner tend to become tangled, making difficult to extract a single hanger when needed. They may also take up space needed for the storage of other things.

It is therefore a prime object of my invention to provide a holder for empty clothing hangers which can be mounted on a wall or shelf inside a closet so as not to take up limited hanging space.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a clothing hanger holder capable of holding a plurality of hangers, in side by side parallel planes, without tangling.

It is another object to provide a clothing hanger holder which includes means for retaining the hangers to prevent accidental dislodgement thereof.

In accordance with the present invention, a holder for a plurality of clothing hangers is provided. The holder includes a frame and first and second hanger support rods extending from spaced points on the frame. Means are provided for mounting the frame to a surface. Means for retaining the hangers on the rods is provided to prevent accidental dislodgement thereof.

The retaining means may take the form of upwardly bent rod end sections. In one embodiment, the retaining means is an upwardly extending arcuate rod section connecting the first and second rods.

A third rod may be provided. The third rod extends from the frame at a location spaced from the first and second rods. The third rod extends in a direction substantially parallel to the first and second rods. In one preferred embodiment, the third rod joins the arcuate section.

A cover is provided extending from the frame for enclosing the area in which the hangers are situated. The cover defines a substantially triangular space. The cover includes a slot to accomodate the hooks of the hangers.

To these and to such other objects which may hereinafter appear, the present invention relates to a clothing hanger holder as set forth in the following specification and recited in the annexed claims, wherein like numerals refer to like parts, and in which:

Fig. 1 is a front view of a first preferred embodiment of the present invention mounted on a wall;

Fig. 2 is a side view of the first preferred embodiment of the present invention shown in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a top view of the first preferred embodiment of the present invention shown in Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is a view taken along line 4-4 of Fig. 3 showing a screw type of mounting;

Fig. 5 is a view similar to Fig. 4 but showing a hook type mounting;

Fig. 6 is an isometric view of a second preferred embodiment of the present invention mounted in an upright manner;

Fig. 7 is a side view of a third preferred embodiment of the present invention mounted on a wall;

Fig. 8 is a front view of the third preferred embodiment of the present invention shown in Fig. 7;

Fig. 9 is a top view of the third preferred embodiment of the present invention shown in Fig. 7; and

Fig. 10 is a side view taken along line 10-10 of Fig. 9 of a screw type mounting.

As seen in Figs. 1, 2 and 3, the first preferred embodiment of the present invention is composed of metal rod material, preferably coated with plastic. The base, generally designated 10, is an open rectangular frame. As best seen in Figures 4 and 5, the frame includes portions 12, 14, wider than the frame elements, which have openings therein suitable to accept fasteners to mount the frame to a wall 15. The fasteners may take the form of a pair of simple screws 16 or hooks 18 which extend through the openings in portions 12, 14 to anchor frame 10 to the wall.

Extending from the upper corners of frame 10, proximate portions 12, 14, are rods 20, 22. Rods 20, 22 are adapted to support the ends of the bases 24 of a plurality of clothing hangers, generally designated 26, which are suspended from the rods in side by side parallel relation.

A rod section 28 extends in the plane of frame 10 from the middle of the lower horizontal frame element 30 towards the interior of the frame. A third rod 32 extends from section 28 in a direction substantially parallel to rods 20, 22. Rod 32 is situated at a location proximate the point on hangers 26 where the sides of the hanger join and from which hook 34 extends.

In this preferred embodiment, rods 20 and 22 curve inwardly toward each other and are connected by an arcuate section 36 which projects upwardly from rods 20 and 22 at bends 38 and 40 therein. When rods 20, 22 extend horizontally, arcuate section 36 functions to retain the hangers on rods 20, 22 to prevent accidental dislodgment thereof. It forms a barrier over which the hangers must pass to be removed from the holder. The weight of the hangers tends to prevent the hangers from passing over section 36.

Rod 32 has an upwardly extending section 42. Section 42 is joined to arcuate section 36 near its midpoint 44. Third rod 32 not only serves to position the hangers, it also supports arcuate section 36.

The second preferred embodiment of the present invention, as shown in Fig. 2, is similar to the first embodiment except that the rods 20', 22' and 32' extending from frame 10' are not curved toward each other or joined at a point spaced from the frame. In this embodiment, each rod 20', 22' and 32' is substantially straight with an upwardly bent end section 46, 48 and 50, respectively. Bent end sections 46, 48 and 50 function to retain the hanger on the holder, in the same manner as arcuate section 36 of the first embodiment, when the holder is mounted on a wall.

The second embodiment of the holder can be mounted on a wall by portions 12' and 14' in the same manner as the first embodiment or can rest upright on a horizontal surface 52, such as a shelf, as shown.

The third preferred embodiment is shown in Figs. 7 through 10. In this embodiment, the lower or third rod 32 is eliminated. A generally triangular cover member 52 extends from frame 54. Cover 52 consists of a substantially planer top member 56, extending above rods 20" and 22". First and second oppositely inclined bottom members 58, 60 define a slot 62 therebetween, at their lower ends, to accomodate the hanger hooks. Members 58, 60 are connected to top member 56 by side portions 62, 64 respectively.



Cover 52 defines a triangular area within which the hangers are situated when suspended from rods 20", 22". Rods 20", 22" each have an upwardly bent end section 68, 70 respectively to prevent accidental dislodgement of the hangers.

Top member 56 is provided with a substantially rectangular opening 72. Opening 72 is adapted to accept the hand of a user to facilitate gripping of the holder. Thus, this preferred embodiment is useable to transport as well as to store hangers.

It should now be appreciated that the present invention is a clothing hanger holder which includes at least two spaced hanger support rods for suspending a plurality of clothing hangers in side by side parallel relation. The rods are provided with upwardly bent end sections which function to retain the hangers to prevent accidental dislodgment thereof. In one preferred embodiment, the rods are connected by an upwardly extending arcuate section. A third rod may be provided. Further, a cover enclosing the space where the hangers are situated may be employed.

While only a limited number of preferred embodiments are disclosed for purposes of illustration, it is obvious that many variations and modifications could be made thereto. It is intended to cover all of these variations and modifications which fall within the scope of the invention, as defined by the following claims:

**I CLAIM:**

1. A holder for a plurality of clothing hangers, the holder comprising a frame, first and second hanger support rods extending from spaced points on said frame, means for mounting said frame to a surface and means for retaining the hangers on said rods to prevent accidental dislodgement thereof.

2. The holder of claim 1 wherein said retaining means comprises a bent rod end section.

3. The holder of claim 1 wherein said retaining means comprises a section connecting said rods.

4. The holder of claim 3 wherein said section is arcuate.

5. The holder of claim 1 further comprising a third rod extending from said frame at a location spaced from said first and second rods.

6. The holder of claim 5 wherein said third rod extends in a direction substantially parallel to said first and second rods.

7. The holder of claim 5 wherein said first and second rods are joined by a section and third rod joins said section.

8. The holder of claim 1 wherein said retaining means comprises an upwardly bent rod end section.

9. The holder of claim 1 where said retaining means comprises an upwardly bent end section of each of said first and second rods.

10. The holder of claim 5 wherein said retaining means comprises an upwardly bent end section of said third rod.

11. The holder of claim 5 wherein said retaining means comprises a bent section of each of said first, second and third rods.

12. The holder of claim 1 further comprising a cover extending from said frame for enclosing the area in which the hangers are situated.

13. The holder of claim 11 wherein said cover defines a substantially triangular space.

14. The holder of claim 11 wherein said cover includes a slot to accommodate the hooks of the hangers.

Applicant or Patentee: MARTHA MCKENZIE Attorney's  
Serial or Patent No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Docket No.: MCK-1  
Filed or Issued: \_\_\_\_\_  
For: CLOTHING HANGER HOLDER



VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY  
(37 CFR 1.9(f) and 1.27(b)) - INDEPENDENT INVENTOR

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees under section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, to the Patent and Trademark Office with regard to the invention entitled CLOTHING HANGER HOLDER described in

- ☒ the specification filed herewith  
☐ application serial no. \_\_\_\_\_, filed \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ patent no. \_\_\_\_\_, issued \_\_\_\_\_

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license, any rights in the invention to any person who could not be classified as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Each person, concern or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention is listed below:

- ☐ no such person, concern, or organization  
☐ persons, concerns or organizations listed below\*

\*NOTE: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

FULL NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

☐ INDIVIDUAL ☐ SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN ☐ NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

FULL NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

☐ INDIVIDUAL ☐ SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN ☐ NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

FULL NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

☐ INDIVIDUAL ☐ SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN ☐ NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application; any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

MARTHA MCKENZIE

NAME OF INVENTOR NAME OF INVENTOR NAME OF INVENTOR

*Martha Wolff McKenzie*

Signature of Inventor

Signature of Inventor

Signature of Inventor

2/24/97

Date

Date

Date

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that: My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name, and that I verily believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed at 201 below) or a joint inventor (if plural inventors are named below at 201-204) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

## CLOTHING HANGER HOLDER

the specification of which ☒ is attached hereto, or  
(check one) ☐ was filed on \_\_\_\_\_ as Application Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_

and was amended on \_\_\_\_\_  
(if applicable)

I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above. I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a). I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

| COUNTRY | APPLICATION NUMBER | DATE OF FILING<br>(day, month, year) | PRIORITY<br>CLAIMED UNDER<br>35 U.S.C. 119 |
|---------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
|         |                    |                                      | YES _____ NO _____                         |
|         |                    |                                      | YES _____ NO _____                         |

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

| U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER | DATE OF FILING<br>(day, month, year) | STATUS   |         |           |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------|---------|-----------|
|                         |                                      | PATENTED | PENDING | ABANDONED |
|                         |                                      |          |         |           |
|                         |                                      |          |         |           |

**POWER OF ATTORNEY:** As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorneys to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

Harold James, No. 15800

and

Robert L. Epstein, No. 26451

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|     |                         |   |                                 |   |
|-----|-------------------------|---|---------------------------------|---|
| 201 | FULL NAME OF INVENTOR   | LAST NAME<br>MCKENZIE                         | FIRST NAME<br>MARTHA            | MIDDLE NAME                               |
|     | RESIDENCE & CITIZENSHIP | CITY<br>Eufaula                               | STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY<br>Al. | COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP<br>USA             |
|     | POST OFFICE ADDRESS     | POST OFFICE ADDRESS<br>1771 Country Club Road | CITY<br>Eufaula                 | STATE OR COUNTRY<br>Al. ZIP CODE<br>36027 |
| 202 | FULL NAME OF INVENTOR   | LAST NAME                                     | FIRST NAME                      | MIDDLE NAME                               |
|     | RESIDENCE & CITIZENSHIP | CITY  | STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY        | COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP                    |
|     | POST OFFICE ADDRESS     | POST OFFICE ADDRESS                           | CITY                            | STATE OR COUNTRY ZIP CODE                 |
| 203 | FULL NAME OF INVENTOR   | LAST NAME                                     | FIRST NAME                      | MIDDLE NAME                               |
|     | RESIDENCE & CITIZENSHIP | CITY  | STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY        | COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP                    |
|     | POST OFFICE ADDRESS     | POST OFFICE ADDRESS                           | CITY                            | STATE OR COUNTRY ZIP CODE                 |
| 204 | FULL NAME OF INVENTOR   | LAST NAME                                     | FIRST NAME                      | MIDDLE NAME                               |
|     | RESIDENCE & CITIZENSHIP | CITY  | STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY        | COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP                    |
|     | POST OFFICE ADDRESS     | POST OFFICE ADDRESS                           | CITY                            | STATE OR COUNTRY ZIP CODE                 |

I hereby declare that the statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements herein on information and belief are believed to be true, and further, that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

|   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 201<br><i>Martha Wolff McKenzie</i> | SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 202 |
| DATE<br>2/24/97   | DATE                      |
| SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 203                                 | SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 204 |
| DATE  | DATE                      |

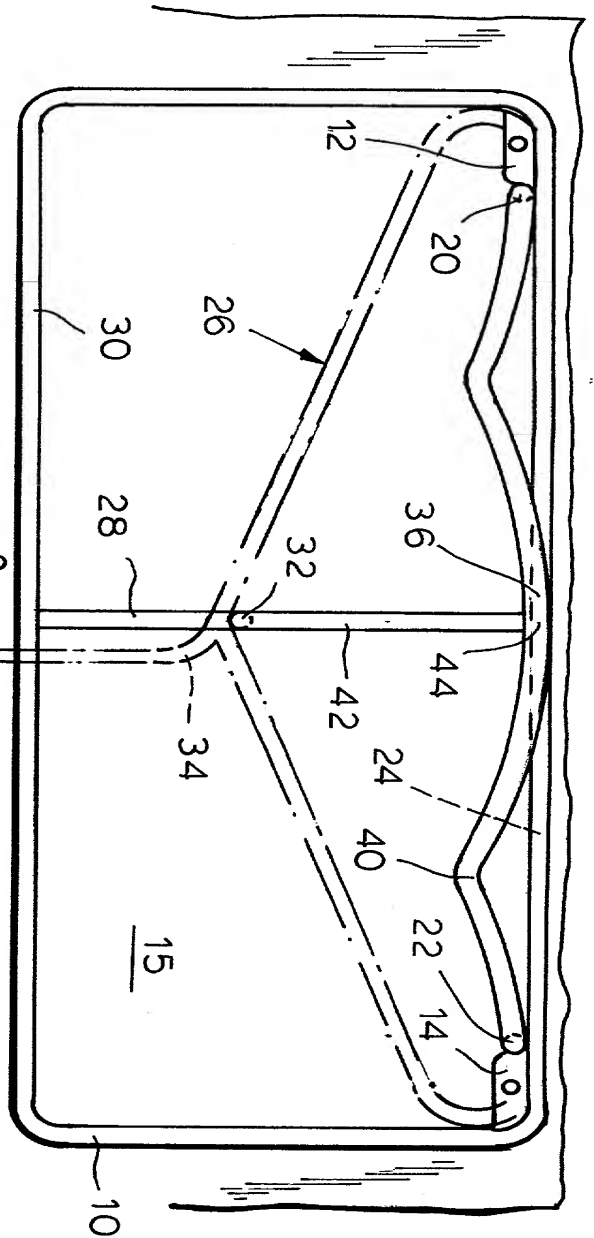


FIG. 1

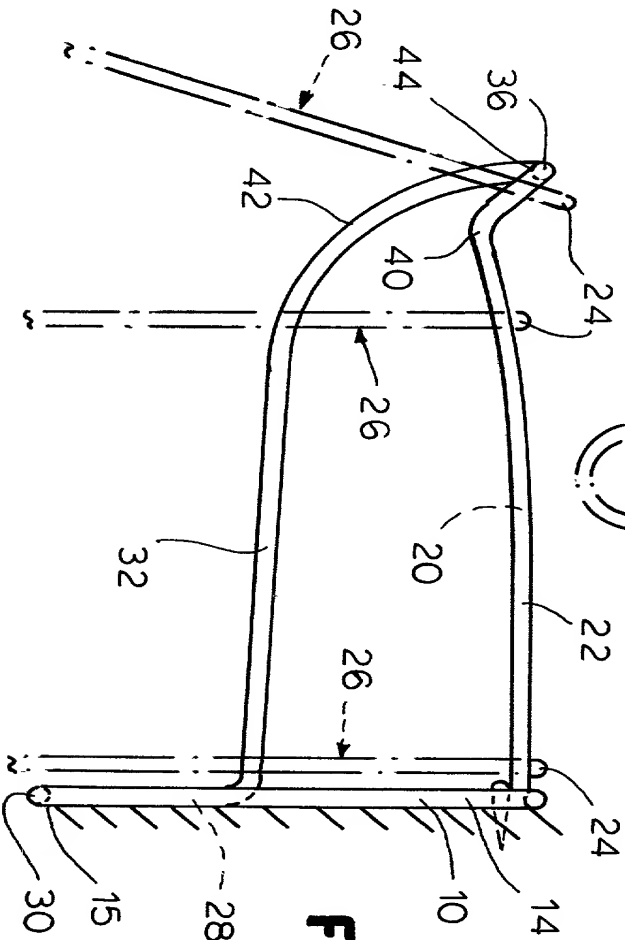


FIG. 2

4

12

FIG. 3

4

24

20

32

24

36

38

44

40

26

22

10

14

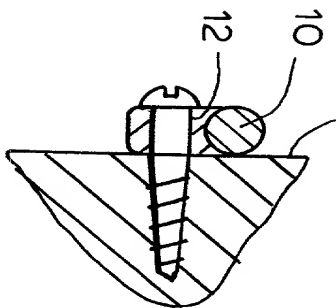


FIG. 4

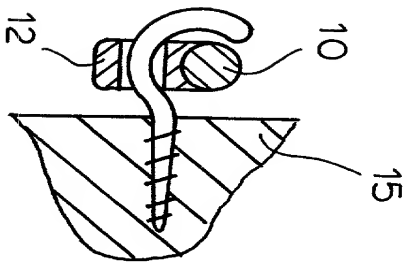


FIG. 5

FIG. 6

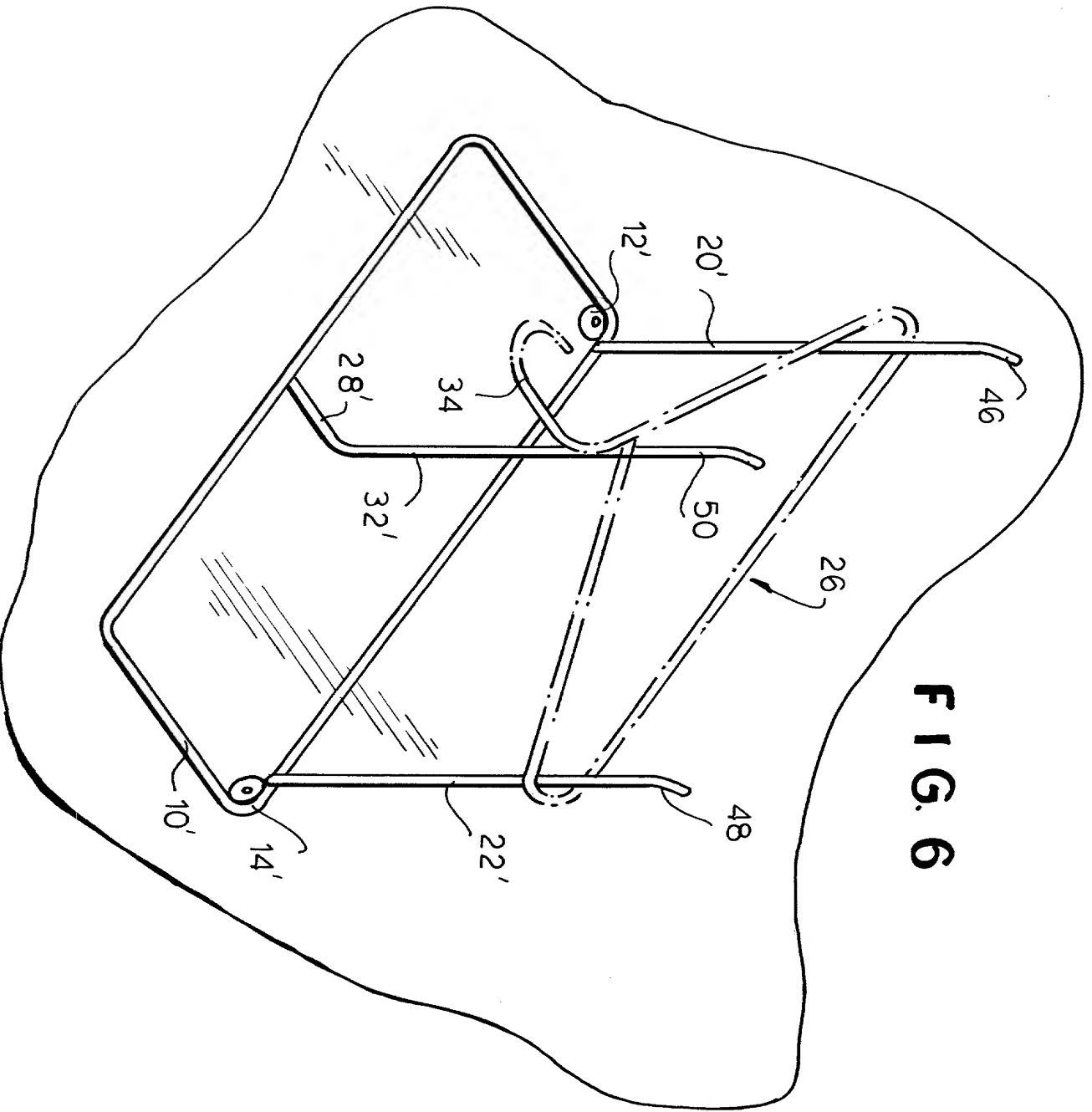




FIG. 8

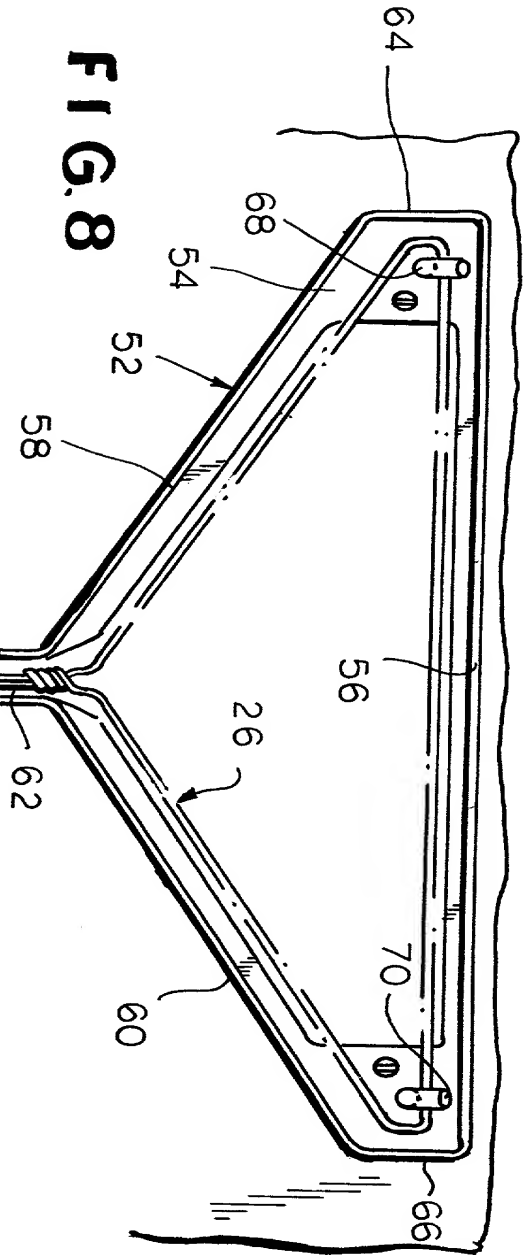


FIG. 7

